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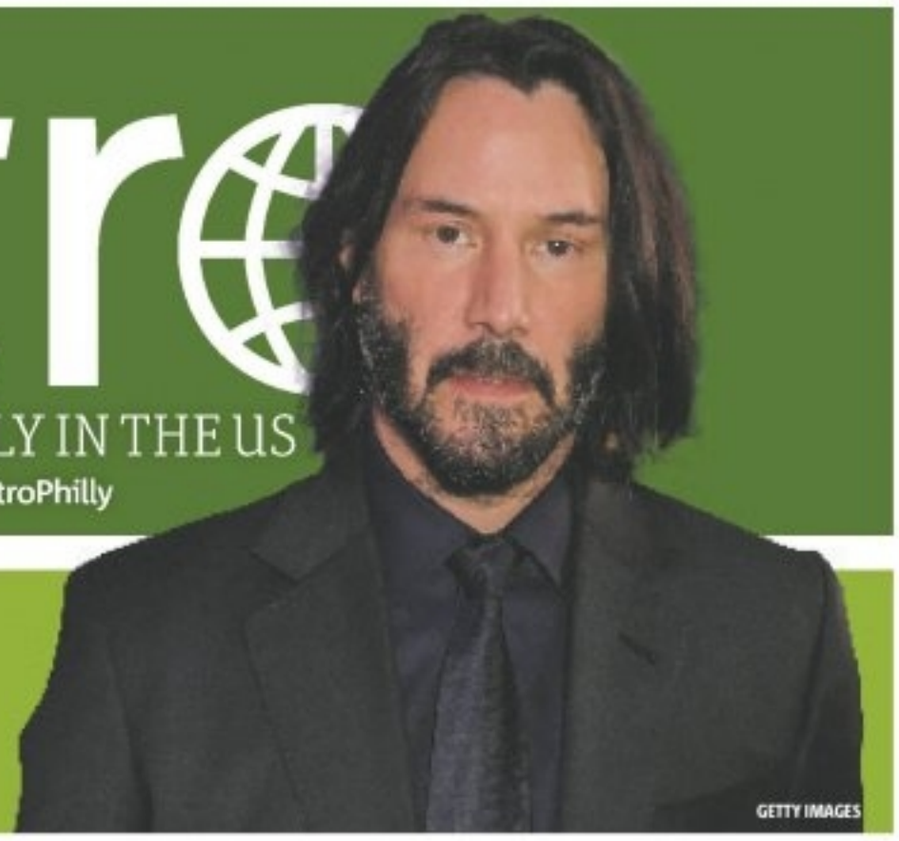

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KEANU HAS A 'SECRET'

The "John Wick" star speaks with Metro. 15

City mayoral primary is Tuesday. 6-7

Philly mayor sues Philly mayor. 8

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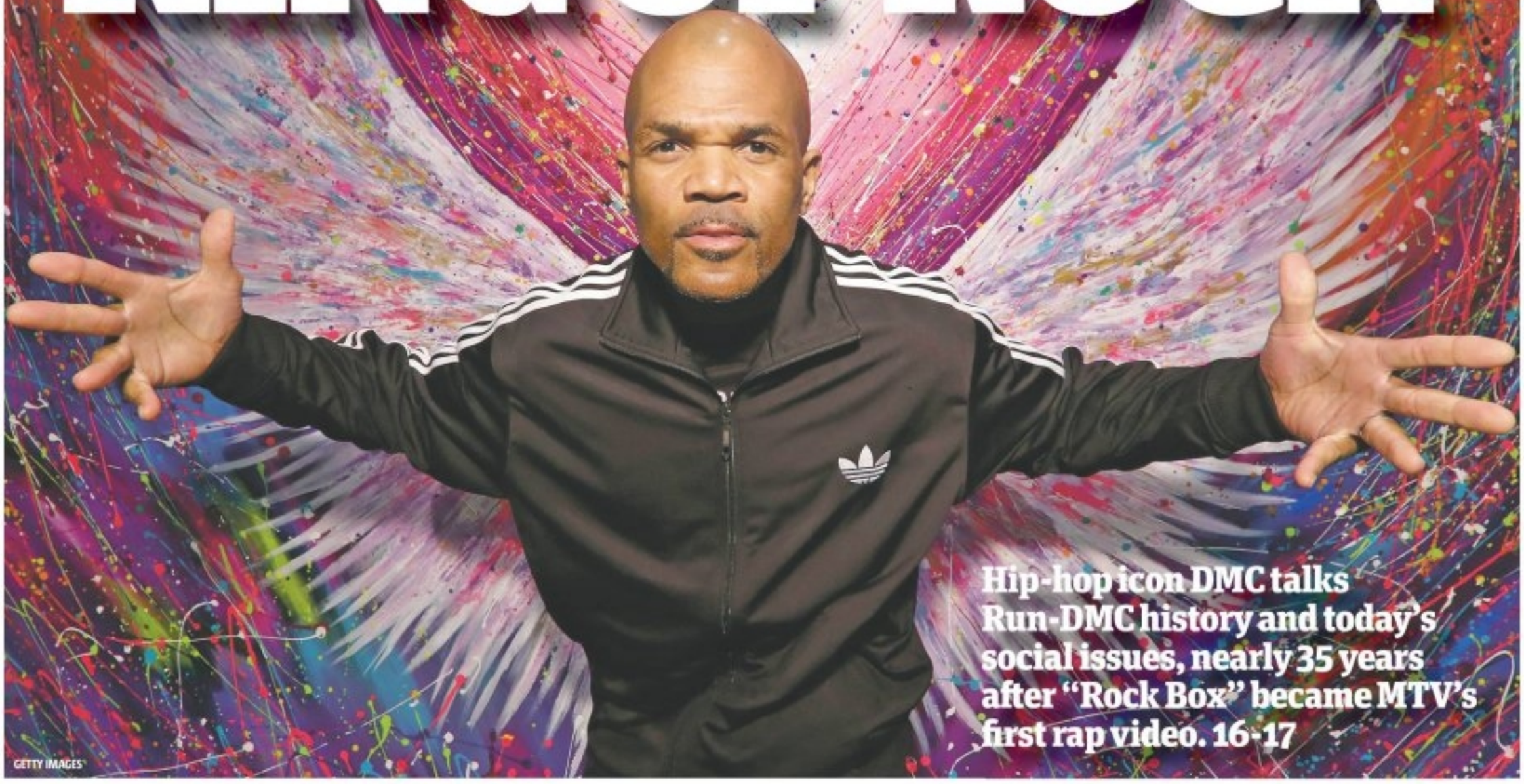

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Hip-hop icon DMC talks Run-DMC history and today's social issues, nearly 35 years after "Rock Box" became MTV's first rap video. 16-17

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Metro's Weather Report

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Blast injures South African tourists near Egypt's Giza pyramids

A witness said he heard a "loud explosion" while sitting in traffic.

An explosion targeting a tourist bus injured at least 12 people on Sunday, mostly South African tourists, near a new museum being built close to the Giza pyramids in Egypt, two security sources said.

A third security source said the bus was carrying 25 South African tourists from the airport to the pyramids area, and that four Egyptians in a nearby car were also injured by broken glass.

Security and judicial sources said a rudimentary device containing nails and pieces of metal had been detonated remotely on the perimeter of the Grand Egyptian Museum, not far from the site of a roadside blast that hit another tourist bus in December.

Pictures posted on social media showed a bus with some of its windows blown out or shattered, and debris in the road next to a low wall with a hole in it.

One witness told Reuters he heard a "very loud explosion" while sitting in traffic.

South Africa's foreign ministry said staff from its embassy in Egypt were visiting hospitals to check on the reported injuries.

The museum is due to open next year as the new home for some of the country's top antiquities on a site adjoining the world-famous Giza pyramids. It is part of an effort to boost tourism, a key source of foreign revenue for Egypt.

The sector has been recovering after tourist numbers dropped in the wake of a 2011 uprising and the 2015 bombing of a Russian passenger jet.

There was no damage to the museum from the blast, which happened 50 meters from its outer fence and more than 400 meters from the museum building, the Antiquities Ministry said in a statement.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Egyptian security forces are waging a counter insurgency campaign against Islamist militants, some with links to Islamic State, that is focused in the north of the Sinai Peninsula.

Attacks outside Sinai have become relatively rare, though there have been several security incidents in recent months in Giza, across the Nile from central Cairo.

In December, three Vietnamese tourists and an Egyptian guide were killed and at least 10 others injured when a roadside bomb hit their tour bus less than 2.5 miles from the Giza pyramids. REUTERS

ALL IMAGES REUTERS

Rocket fired in Iraqi capital, no casualties

2 A rocket was fired in Iraqi capital Baghdad's heavily-fortified Green Zone, which houses government buildings and foreign embassies, but caused no casualties, the Iraqi military said on Sunday. A blast was heard in central Baghdad on Sunday night, Reuters witnesses said, and two Baghdad-based diplomatic sources also said they heard the blast. "A Katyusha rocket fell in the middle of the Green Zone without causing any losses, details to come later," the military said in a brief statement. The Katyusha multiple rocket launcher is an inexpensive type of rocket artillery that can deliver explosives to a target quicker than conventional artillery, but is less accurate. Police special forces found a rocket launcher in al-Sina'a district in eastern Baghdad and have sealed off the area, a police source told Reuters. REUTERS

Graduation speaker pledges to pay off students' debt

3 Billionaire investor Robert Smith surprised graduating students at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, by using his speech at Sunday's commencement ceremony to pledge to pay off the student loan debt of the entire class of 2019. Video footage of Smith's remarks show mouths falling agape before students rise to their feet to cheer and applaud as the pledge is made. "This is my class, 2019, and my family is making a grant to eliminate their student loans," Smith said during his speech, pointing toward hundreds of students dressed in black robes and mortarboards. "I know my class will make sure they pay this forward," Smith added. The black founder and chief executive of the private equity firm Vista Equity Partners has a net worth of about $4.4 billion, according to a 2018 estimate by Forbes magazine. REUTERS

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NEWS

Trump blasts Republican lawmaker Amash over impeachment remarks

"Lightweight" and "loser" were some of the president's responses to Rep. Justin Amash.

Donald Trump lashed out on Sunday at the first Republican congressman to call the president's behavior impeachable, while Democrats warned Trump's stonewalling of congressional probes is strengthening the case for an impeachment inquiry.

Trump called Republican Rep. Justin Amash "a total lightweight" and "a loser" on Twitter, a day after the Michigan conservative said the Mueller report showed that the Republican president "engaged in specific actions and a pattern of behavior that meet the threshold for impeachment."

Amash's criticism made calls in the U.S. Congress for Trump's impeachment bipartisan, though just barely, with most Republicans still standing by the president at a time of economic growth, turbulent markets and global trade tensions.

Saying most lawmakers have not read it, Amash cited Special Counsel Robert Mueller's 448-page report on Russian meddling in Trump's favor in the 2016 U.S. election. On Twitter on Saturday, Amash said the report showed Trump had obstructed justice and added, "President Trump has engaged in impeachable conduct."

A frequent Trump critic, Amash is a part of the House Freedom Caucus, a conservative faction. He has also signaled he would consider running as a libertarian against Trump in 2020.

Counter-punching in his usual style, Trump tweeted: "Never a fan of @justinamash, a total lightweight who opposes me and some of our great Republican ideas and policies just for the sake of getting his name out there through controversy ... Justin is a loser who sadly plays right into our opponents hands!"

Trump will have a chance to make his case to supporters on Monday at a rally planned for Montoursville, Pennsylvania.

Amash's comments echoed the conclusions of many Democrats. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said that Trump was moving closer to impeachment with his stonewalling of numerous congressional investigations of him and his presidency.

Still, Democrats are divided about impeachment. With 2020 election campaigns heating up, Pelosi said impeachment proceedings would be "divisive" for the country.

IMPEACHMENT PROCESS

No U.S. president has ever been removed from office as a direct result of the U.S. Constitution's impeachment process. The House of Representatives has impeached two presidents. Both were acquitted by the Senate.

The Mueller report, now at the center of an escalating oversight battle between Trump and House Democrats, detailed extensive contacts between Trump's 2016 campaign and Russia, but did not find that there was a conspiracy with Moscow. The report also described actions Trump took to try to impede Mueller's investigation, but made no formal finding on the question of obstruction, leaving the matter to Congress.

Amash also said on Twitter that Attorney General William Barr, a Trump appointee, "deliberately misrepresented" Mueller's report when he oversaw the roll-out of a redacted version.

There were no signs on Sunday of other Republicans following Amash's lead. Another Trump critic, Republican Sen. Mitt Romney, said on Sunday that Amash made "a courageous statement," yet also told CNN's "State of the Union" program that he did not believe Mueller's findings supported impeachment. REUTERS

President Donald Trump. GETTY IMAGES

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GETTY IMAGES

How mayoral candidates plan to act on critical issues

Safe injection sites, school funding and soda tax to play key role in voter decisions.

MADELINE PRESLAND
letters@metro.us

Philadelphia voters will make their way to the polls for Tuesday's municipal primary election to determine which Democratic mayoral candidate will appear on the general election ballot in November.

Incumbent Mayor Jim Kenney, who took office in 2016, faces two challengers in his bid for re-election. Kenney's key accomplishments during his current term include the sugary beverage tax and establishing a local board of governance for the Philadelphia Public School District. Former City Controller Alan Butkovitz and state Sen. Anthony Hardy Williams are running against Kenney in the primary. Here's how each candidate plans to tackle voters' concerns.

Public school funding

Williams plans to prioritize funding public schools and setting up other programs to improve the quality of education in Philadelphia under the new local board.

"We have to find a way to fund our public schools without raising property taxes, which our taxpayers are not going to do," Williams said during a televised debate on NBC last week. "We need to find ways to get young teachers to come back to Philadelphia."

Butkovitz emphasizes the role of schools in how families make decisions on where to live.

"The more our schools improve, the more people will stay in our city," he said.

Kenney said he would maintain current programs and follow board president Superintendent William Hite's leadership.

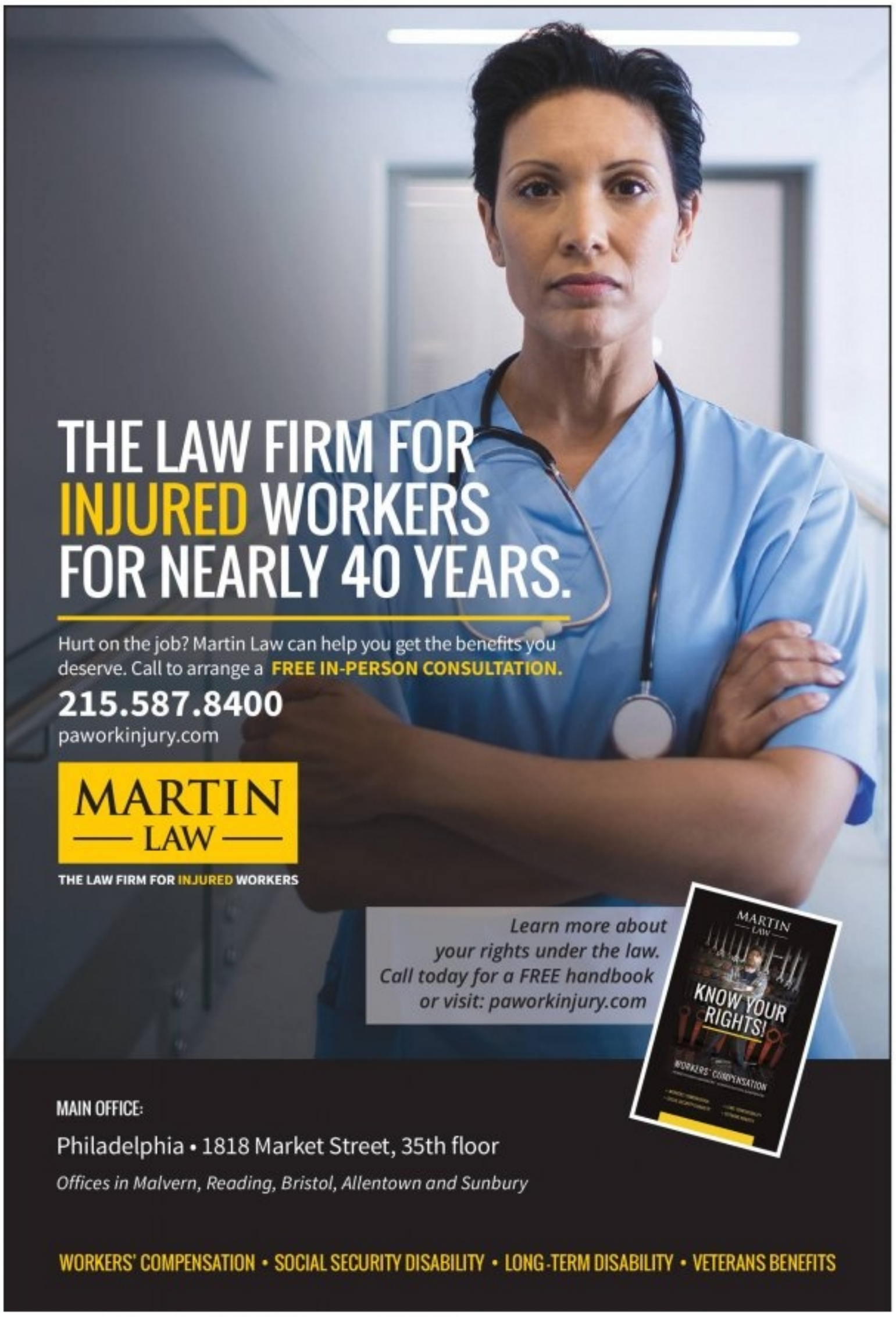
Business taxes and sugary beverage tax

Kenney defends the impact of the sugary beverage tax by emphasizing that it's a voluntary tax and has health benefits backed by public health officials. Sugary beverage sales in Philadelphia are down 51 percent, but Kenney is skeptical about the impact on beverage companies.

"It's likely that if you buy bottled water instead of soda, it's the same company you're buying from anyway," he said "I don't know how there's a loss of business or jobs from people switching from one product to another."

Both Butkovitz and Williams said they would get rid of the

> **"We have to find a way to fund our public schools without raising property taxes, which our taxpayers are not going to do. We need to find ways to get young teachers to come back to Philadelphia."**
>
> State Sen. Anthony Hardy Williams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Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney in 2018. GETTY IMAGES

51%
Sugary beverage sales in Philadelphia are down 51 percent, but Kenney is skeptical about the impact on beverage companies.

soda tax, noting the city's budget surplus and how the tax primarily affects poorer neighborhoods. Kenney fears significant budget cuts and a decline in city services if other taxes are lowered in addition to eliminating the soda tax.

Safe injection sites

Kenney is currently exploring how to open an overdose prevention center, which would be operated by a separate nonprofit organization. The Department of Justice threatened legal action against the city if a safe injection site opened.

"We need to figure out what to tell our police to do when someone enters one of these facilities and they have drugs on them," Kenney said. "There are some legal issues we need to straighten out."

Both Butkovitz and Williams said they would halt all efforts dedicated to opening a safe injection site, and focus on increasing addiction outreach in existing public centers such as libraries and fire stations.

Sanctuary city

If the three candidates can come together on one issue, it is protecting Philly's sanctuary city status. Kenney, Williams and Butkovitz agree that maintaining this encourages residents to work with police and report crimes regardless of immigration status.

The 2019 Pennsylvania municipal primary election is Tuesday; polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The general election is Nov. 5, 2019.

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Former Philadelphia Mayor John Street (right). GETTY IMAGES

Kenney sued by former mayor over property taxes

A city spokesman calls former Mayor John Street's lawsuit a political stunt.

MICHAEL MARTIN
letters@metro.us

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney has been sued by former Mayor John Street, who says the Kenney administration has illegally overassessed property taxes on Philly homeowners.

Street is a policy adviser to state Sen. Anthony Williams, who is challenging Kenney in the May 21 Democratic primary.

It was in that capacity, Street told WHYY on Friday, that he researched the issue and was "shocked" by what he found. The former mayor is representing Robert Cunningham, a North Philly homeowner in his 80s who received a 61 percent tax increase on his home of 47 years.

The suit, filed May 10, names Kenney, City of Philadelphia Finance Director Rob Dubow and Chief Assessment Officer Michael Piper as defendants. It asks the court to order new assessments for all properties within 90 days, to prevent current assessments from being used on tax bills, and to require that homeowners be given refunds for overpayments.

In a press release announcing the suit, Street said that as many as 200,000 Philly households may have been overassessed. "This is the most egregious distortion of the democratic process that I have seen in 50 years," said Street. "No other administration since the enactment of the 1951 Home Rule Charter has had the capacity or the inclination to raise hundreds of millions of real estate tax dollars without a vote of Council. This is the most blatant and flagrant perversion by a modern-day mayor and a clear violation of one of democracy's pillars — taxation without representation."

Under a prior system, property assessments were conducted by the Board of Revision of Taxes. Its members were appointed by the judges of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. Today, a mayoral appointee at the Office of Property Assessment (OPA) oversees those evaluations. That allows the administration to raise taxes without going to the City Council, which violates the state Constitution, Street told WHYY.

A city rep dismissed the suit as political theater. "It's a shame that former Mayor Street is using his law license to execute a political stunt in the form of a frivolous lawsuit," said Mike Dunn, senior deputy communications director for City of Philadelphia, in an email to Metro. "It is a needless distraction from the recent public debate regarding property assessments — a debate which has been productive and has had meaningful results, including reforms that were initiated by OPA."

> **"It's a shame that former Mayor Street is using his law license to execute a political stunt in the form of a frivolous lawsuit."**
>
> Mike Dunn, senior deputy communications director

Dunn added that every property owner has the right to appeal an assessment and that courts have ruled class-action suits are inappropriate in that context.

The City Council has previously criticized the tax assessments as unfair. After an independent review of the process, on Jan. 3 the council called the assessments "unacceptably inaccurate and inconsistent" and called for a "complete overhaul of leadership" at OPA, including the replacement of Piper.

A hearing date on the lawsuit is pending.

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Google suspends some business with Huawei after Trump blacklist

A source told Reuters that Alphabet has halted hardware and software transfer business.

REUTERS

Alphabet Inc.'s Google has suspended business with Huawei that requires the transfer of hardware, software and technical services except those publicly available via open source licensing, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters on Sunday, in a blow to the Chinese technology company that the U.S. government has sought to blacklist around the world.

The move could hobble Huawei's smartphone business outside China as the tech giant will immediately lose access to updates to Google's Android operating system. The next version of its Android smartphones will also lose access to popular services including the Google Play Store and Gmail and YouTube apps.

"Huawei will only be able to use the public version of Android and will not be able to get access to proprietary apps and services from Google," the source said.

The Trump administration on Thursday added Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. to a trade blacklist, immediately enacting restrictions that will make it extremely difficult for the company to do business with U.S. counterparts.

On Friday the U.S. Commerce Department said it was considering scaling back restrictions on Huawei to "prevent the interruption of exist-

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MH-437196-AA MAR 2017

ing network operations and equipment." It was not immediately clear on Sunday whether Huawei's access to mobile software would be affected.

The extent to which Huawei will be hurt by the U.S. government's blacklist is not yet known as its global supply chain assesses the impact. Chip experts have questioned Huawei's ability to continue to operate without U.S. help.

Details of the specific services affected by the suspension were still being discussed internally at Google, according to the source. Huawei attorneys are also studying the impact of the blacklist, a Huawei spokesman said on Friday. Huawei was not immediately reachable for further comment.

Representatives of the U.S. Commerce Department did not immediately have comment.

POPULAR APPS

Huawei will continue to have access to the version of the Android operating system available through the open source license, known as Android Open Source Project (AOSP), that is available for free to anyone who wishes to use it. There are about 2.5 billion active Android devices worldwide, according to Google.

But Google will stop providing Huawei with access, technical support and collaboration involving its proprietary apps and services going forward, the source said.

Huawei has said it has spent the last few years preparing a contingency plan by developing its own technology in case it is blocked from using Android. Some of this technology is already being used in products sold in China, the company has said.

In an interview with Reuters in March, Eric Xu, rotating chairman of Huawei, struck a defiant note in anticipation of retaliatory actions by U.S. companies. "No matter what happens, the Android community does not have any legal right to block any company from accessing its open-source license," he said. REUTERS

Bethlehem Steel's landmark Martin Tower is imploded

Lou Woloszyn of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, dressed in costume as a demolition man as he and spectators watched Bethlehem Steel's landmark Martin Tower implosion on Sunday, May 19, 2019, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Martin Tower, the tallest building in the Lehigh Valley, housed Bethlehem Steel's corporate headquarters from 1947 until the company was acquired by International Steel in 2003. WILLIAM THOMAS CAIN/GETTY IMAGES

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'John Wick 3' knocks down 'Avengers: Endgame' with $57 million debut

"Endgame" was still able to collect $29.4 million at the box office.

Keanu Reeves arrives for a screening of the movie "John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum" in Los Angeles. REUTERS

Earth's Mightiest Heroes put up a good fight, but John Wick put an end to the three-week box office reign of "Avengers: Endgame."

Propelled by positive reviews, "John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum" beat expectations with a debut of $57 million from 3,850 North American locations. That was enough to nab the box office crown from "Avengers: Endgame," Marvel's latest juggernaut that collected $29.4 million during its fourth weekend of release.

"Parabellum," the third installment of the action franchise, opened well above its predecessors 2014's "John Wick" ($14.4 million) and 2017's "John Wick: Chapter 2" ($30.4 million). In "Parabellum," Keanu Reeves returns as the titular ex-hitman who finds himself on the run from assassins. Stuntman-turned-director Chad Stahelski helmed the movie, written by series creator Derek Kolstad. Halle Berry and Laurence Fisburne also star.

"John Wick 3" was a much-needed win for Lionsgate. The studio suffered a string of flops with its big-budget reboot of "Robin Hood" with Taron Egerton, a "Hellboy" remake, and the Liam Neeson thriller "Cold Pursuit."

"Avengers: Endgame," which slid to second place on domestic box office charts, has now earned $771 million in North America, passing "Avatar" and its $761 million haul to become the second-highest-grossing movie at the domestic box office behind "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" ($937 million). It's still the No. 2 biggest title worldwide, following just "Avatar" with $2.78 billion.

"John Wick 3" opened alongside Universal and Amblin's "A Dog's Journey" and Warner Bros. and MGM's "The Sun Is Also a Star."

"A Dog's Journey" arrived below expectations, launching at No. 4 with $8 million from 3,200 venues. It's pacing significantly below 2017's "A Dog's Purpose," the original film in the saga about a canine's adventure to find meaning. That movie debuted with $18 million and went on to earn $64 million at the domestic box office. It became a big hit with international audiences, grossing $140 million overseas.

This weekend's final new wide release, "The Sun Is Also a Star," collapsed with a disastrous $2.6 million bow from 2,073 theaters. REUTERS

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How to save 15 percent on locally grown produce

By Amy Smith

Shopping local comes with a lot of perks, especially where fruits and veggies are concerned. In addition to getting access to tasty, farm-fresh produce, you're also supporting local farmers. On Wednesday, May 22, Philadelphia residents will have another reason to stock up on locally grown produce.

Mariposa Food Co-op is hosting its "Fill it Fresh" event; a one-day sale to get a 15 percent discount on fresh, seasonal produce. Member-owners and shoppers alike will have access to more affordable fruits and vegetables that were mostly grown and harvested within 150 miles of Philadelphia. Seasonal food items actually cost less for local farmers and distribution companies to harvest because they're at the peak of their supply.

Another added benefit is that shoppers will get the chance to try fresh, delicious produce they might not typically come across anywhere else. Some staple, in-season items include rhubarb, asparagus, radishes, kale, sugar and snap peas, turnips, carrots

and more. Eating what's in season will likely broaden your diet and open the door for healthy new food choices.

With the winter chill on its way out, spring is a great time to shop for fresh, local produce as we transition into warmer weather. Buying locally is also an easy way we can do our part to support community-owned businesses and nearby farmers.

Located at 4824 Baltimore Avenue in West Philadelphia, Mariposa Food Co-op is a grocery store open to the public. While they currently have 3,000 member-owners, you certainly don't have to be one to shop the "Fill it Fresh" event or on any other day. What sets Mariposa Food Co-op apart from other stores is that it's community-owned. In other words, its members are also its owners. As such, they answer to their customers and are devoted to providing a welcoming, accessible and affordable shopping experience to everyone who walks through the door.

As the "Fill it Fresh" event demonstrates, Mariposa Food Co-op is designed in a way that contributes to the local economy. For every $1,000 that's spent at the co-op, an average of $1,600 is generated back into the local economy. Most of the profits are reinvested back into local farmers, growers and community members.

Mariposa Food Co-op believes that everyone should have access to fresh, local food that won't break the bank. This is why they pride themselves on everyday low prices, as well as biweekly deals and special events like "Fill it Fresh." They've been serving West Philadelphia for almost 50 years, celebrating local farmers, producers and community members alike.

Mariposa Food Co-op accepts EBT/SNAP and is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Whether you're an active member-owner or new to the co-op, the "Fill it Fresh" shopping event is the perfect opportunity to check out all Mariposa has to offer—while saving 15 percent on local produce!

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— **Seth,** *Metro Philly reader*

ISTOCK

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Aries Expand your interests and improve your skills and qualifications. How you handle others will affect the way you are treated. Listen carefully and avoid getting into an argument.

Taurus Observe how an expert handles a tough situation to find your footing when dealing with matters that perplex you. A physical or personal change is favored.

Gemini Know what is and isn't possible. Don't allow anyone to take advantage of you. Any partnership you develop has to be equal if you want it to work.

Cancer If you lend a helping hand, it will prompt you to make a personal change that will pay off. An offer or settlement will improve your financial situation.

Leo Keep your distance from anyone trying to take advantage of you. Your generosity should be limited to those who give as much as they receive. You can't buy love.

Virgo A personal change will do you good. A chance to network or present what you have to offer will lead to advancement. An independent demeanor will attract interest.

Libra Look at what you can accomplish, not at what's impossible. Know your market and concentrate on developing your skills and making new connections. Avoid discord and disruptive situations.

Scorpio Consider how to best move forward. A change will give you a new perspective on how to use your skills most effectively. Positive advice will be offered. Romance is highlighted.

Sagittarius Look at the big picture and go directly to the source if you find a discrepancy. Don't trust someone who is trying to twist things around or pressure you. Stifle indulgent behavior.

Capricorn Don't let someone from your past back into your life. A change you make at home will bring you closer to a loved one. Use your intelligence and discipline to keep the peace.

Aquarius Consider what you can accomplish and concentrate on reaching your goal. Refuse to let anyone interfere in your life or stall your progress. Avoid people who are pushy or selfish.

Pisces Learn through observation and by helping those less fortunate. A domestic or lifestyle change will encourage you to improve your spending habits.

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'I like to look at fame from afar'
KEANU REEVES

The actor, who stars in "John Wick 3," confessed to Metro his biggest secret.

GABRIELA ACOSTA SILVA, MWN

Keanu Reeves does not like to be under the spotlight. But as an artist, he knows that he must take on the role of fame and do interviews because they are part of the job. After placing his footprints and signature on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on May 14, the actor, born in Lebanon, chatted with Metro about these moments that take him away from that world he usually enjoys alone.

How much do you enjoy the chaos of the industry?
When you know a media as well as the one where I work, you know what the pros and cons are. I have made projects that are fun and learning experiences. I like to look at fame from afar and I like to see the world up close. It bothers me, that obsession of wanting to enter the private life of celebrities, because in the end they are human beings. I am someone who likes to buy food on the street, travel by subway and walk. That people film me does not bother me, because it is a natural necessity for them. I do not usually watch the videos that they record of me on the street. Yes, I guess it's like an invasion of privacy, but they never ask me.

How does it feel shooting action films at 54?
Am I old now [laughs]? Yes, it's difficult, but I still dare to do some scenes. It's like a game of resistance. This year I will be 55, but I think I am in good physical and emotional condition. I've had the fortune to have special training. That's why I get better every time [laughs]. The great thing about "John Wick" is that it allows Keanu Reeves to live new experiences, like all the judo work and some horseback riding. I always appreciate doing new things and learning how to do them.

How similar are you to the character?
You know that John Wick is a loner. He has to fend for himself. Personally, I always look for my own spaces. But I enjoy the adrenaline of life. In the end, we want to be happy and we fight for a better life.

What is Keanu Reeves' biggest secret?
That I am fun and playful. But do not tell anyone [laughs].

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Hip-hop icon DMC

The Hollis, Queens-bred rap legend is back in the studio, as well as helping raise cancer awareness.

JEFF TOMKO
jeff.tomko@metro.us

More than three decades have passed since a teenage trio of hip-hop artists from Hollis, Queens, helped break MTV's color barrier.

It's hard to envision today that the video network could hardly find airtime for top funk artists like The Gap Band and Rick James '80s. Then along came Run-DMC, in hip-hop's infancy, with the 1984 hit track "Rock Box." The guitar riff-heavy rap changed music's landscape when it became the first rap video ever to appear on MTV.

"Truth be told, [the guitar] did give us an advantage," DMC admits. "First Michael [Jackson] came on [MTV], then us. But "Rock Box" was never a rock thing, it was always a hip-hop thing."

Three platinum albums followed the group's debut, sending the Adidas-wearing trio's popularity into the stratosphere with hits including another rock-influenced rap, "King of Rock."

"We had the balls to call ourselves the kings of rock, not kings of rap," DMC says. "When I wrote that rhyme, I wasn't thinking of battling Kool Moe Dee or Melle Mel. I wanted Stevie Wonder, Jimi Hendrix and Elvis to bow when I walked in the room [laughs]. That was my intention, as a 16-year-old."

But what sent the rappers into the music mainstream was their 1986 "Walk This Way" collaborative remake with Aerosmith. However, as DMC explains, the idea almost sent the rappers out the door.

Back in rap's early days, DMC says, it was normal for DJs to cover their album labels with tape or even rip off the labels to prevent a rival DJ from coming over, looking down at the label and then going to the record store and getting that record. DMC says they only knew the song as "Toys in the Attic No. 4" (the fourth song on the album).

If the rappers had their way, DMC puts it, the song would've had a com-

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still 'King of Rock'

pletely different spin — until legendary producer Rick Rubin explained the idea to redo the song with the band in 1986.

"Jay, rest in peace, was like, wow, that's a great idea," DMC says. "Me and Run, we're like, hell f—in' no. We were rhyming. We had never heard the lyrics until right after that conversation [with Rubin]. Reluctantly, me and Run gave in."

Run-DMC dissolved following the shooting death of Jam Master Jay in a Jamaica recording studio in 2002. While Reverend Run remained in the public eye due to his reality series, and the group's induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2007, DMC fell off the lyrical radar a little bit.

"I remember I was at a gas station on Long Island, and this young white kid comes up to me. 'Oh s—, you used to be DMC,' he says. I was like, I'm still DMC. Is Bruce Springsteen no longer Springsteen if he doesn't have an album out?"

Today, DMC (real name Darryl McDaniels) is back in the studio, collaborating with musical veterans Sammy Hagar, Joan Jett, Dave Navarro and Sebastian Bach on a new studio album. Social issues such as gun violence drive the lyrics for the 54-year-old in a recently released song, "Flames," featuring Disturbed bassist John Moyer and singer Myles Kennedy.

Following the death of his father Byford nearly 15 years ago, DMC says he became heavily involved with cancer organizations. For some, it may be hard to see a correlation between gun violence and cancer, but DMC has found a similarity.

"The emotions are the same, because both can be preventable," DMC says. "Motherf—ers don't have to get shot. People are dying from gunshots, cancer, suicide. These can be prevented if you're providing the right information. That's what is important about using acting, music, storytelling — to get the message across."

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The MOAR is hosting another exciting History After Hours event. MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

5 Fun things to do in Philly this week

Learn how to make cocktails with ingredients from your garden, attend a birthday bash and more.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

Looking for some fun and unique things to do in Philly this week? We've got you covered. Here are five fun things to do in Philly this week.

"Seafarers and Stargazers"

Head to the Museum of the American Revolution for another incredible addition of their monthly History After Hours series. This month's extravaganza will be focusing on "Seafarers and Stargazers" and will feature events and special happenings focused around the interesting subjects. Guests can grab a refreshing beer and partake in an educational and fun talk by Rich Wagner, historian and author of "Philadelphia Beer: A Heady History of Brewing in the Cradle of Liberty." Guests can also learn about daily life and shared beliefs about science throughout the 18th and 19th centuries during "Almanacs, Stars, and the Popular Press" with Darin Hayton, associate professor of History of Science and chair of the History Department at Haverford College. The evening will also feature free beer tastings from La Cabra Brewing Company and Conshohocken Brewing Company, stargazing from a telescope operated by a representative from the Philly Moon Men, knot-tying activities, storytelling, cannon drills and much, much more. *May 21, 5-8 p.m., Museum of the American Revolution, 101 S. 3rd St., $10, amrevmuseum.org*

Garden to Glass Cocktail Class

Head to Bar Amis this Monday night to join in on a spirited cocktail class led by Amis' lead mixologist, Anwar Morgan, and Campari America's Michelle Curtis. Both Morgan and Curtis will be showcasing how to create delicious drinks featuring ingredients in your everyday garden, making this class the ultimate guide to a delicious and refreshing summer. The class will showcase different tips, tricks and techniques you can use to perfect your cocktail by utilizing fresh fruits and vegetables. Guests will get to sample their cocktails during the class and fresh bruschetta will also be served to snack on. Tickets include instruction, assorted bruschetta, four cocktail tastings, tax and service. *May 20, 5:30 p.m., Bar Amis, 4503 S. Broad St.,*

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Northern Italian meets New American Dinner
This Wednesday night, head to Scarpetta to indulge in an incredibly delicious dinner crafted by Executive Chef Michael Loughlin of Scarpetta Philadelphia and Chef Benjamin Moore of Harper's Garden. The two esteemed culinary wizards will be putting together a menu that blends Northern Italy with New American cuisine in a harmoniously delicious way. According to the release, the four-course meal will feature the bold, decadent flavors of Scarpetta's modern Italian fare alongside the contemporary, seasonal fare found at Harper's Garden. Tickets are available for $75 or guests can upgrade tickets to add an enticing wine pairing to go along with the meal. Dinner will be limited to 50 guests; tickets are available on Eventbrite. *May 22, 7 p.m., Scarpetta Philadelphia, 210 W. Rittenhouse Sq., $75, scarpettarestaurants.com*

Sex & the City Trivia benefiting the PSPCA
Test your knowledge on all things Carrie, Charlotte, Samantha and Miranda this Tuesday night at Punch Line Philly. The trivia will cover the entirety of the classic HBO show, so if you need an excuse to sit on your couch after work and binge, here it is. This exciting event will fully benefit the PSPCA and its lifesaving mission, and will be hosted by Bennett from TDY 96.5. The trivia starts at 7 p.m., but happy hour begins at 5 p.m. with plenty of enticing specials. Tickets are $8, but Philadelphians can also purchase a specialty ticket for $15, which includes admission and a cosmopolitan. *May 21, 7 p.m., Punch Line Philly, 33 E. Laurel St, $8-$15, pspca.org*

Submarine Becuna's 75th Birthday Bash
Head to the Independence Seaport Museum this week to celebrate Submarine Becuna's 75th birthday with a series of fun events, special programs, plenty of birthday cake and more. Birthday activities include signing a birthday card for "Becky" in the crew's mess aboard the submarine, a Becuna-themed Seafarin' Saturday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on May 25, an artifact show-and-tell, delicious birthday cake, docent tours of the Becuna with United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. and much more. There will also be a special ceremony held on May 26 with speakers from the United States Navy as well as local individuals who have special stories about, and connections to, the submarine. A full list of events can be found on the official website. *May 23-27, times vary, Independence Seaport Museum, 211 S. Christopher Columbus Blvd., prices vary, phillyseaport.org*

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Don't give up on Public Service Loan Forgiveness

NerdWallet is a personal finance website.

New data from the U.S. Department of Education show that 518 borrowers' federal student loans have been canceled via Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) as of March 2019.

The average amount forgiven was $59,244.

While fewer than 1 percent of those who have applied for forgiveness have been successful, the low approval rate isn't necessarily unexpected — and it doesn't mean PSLF is hopeless.

In a statement to NerdWallet, Education Department Press Secretary Liz Hill said: "The Department expects few people to be immediately eligible for a loan discharge under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program."

In part, that's because it takes at least 10 years to qualify for PSLF — the first borrowers became eligible in October 2017 — and the program has many complexities to navigate. Success should become more common as those holdups become less of an issue. Here's why.

Some borrowers haven't made enough payments

A lack of qualifying payments is the most common reason PSLF applications are rejected, accounting for more than 50 percent of all denials, according to department data.

You must make 10 years of on-time, in-full payments to qualify for PSLF. Employment gaps, missed renewals for payment plans and other periods of nonpayment, like loan forbearance, that happen during that time frame could delay potential forgiveness.

Borrowers should expect to be in repayment for an additional year or two due to such interruptions, says Paul S. Garrard, president and founder of PGPresents, an independent student loan counseling company in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

"I think it is realistic to expect to see significant [forgiveness] numbers in 2021 or later." Garrard says.

If you do qualify for PSLF but apply too early, your rejection notice will include how many payments short you are, so you'll know when it makes sense to reapply.

Someloansaren'teligible

Sixteen percent of PSLF applications are denied because the borrower has the wrong type of loans, according to department data. Only federal direct loans qualify for PSLF; older loans from the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program do not.

"FFEL loans are federal, but they were not made by the federal government," says Garrard. "Hence, they are not considered eligible loans."

ISTOCK

FFEL borrowers can consolidate these student loans to qualify for PSLF. Consolidation restarts the payment clock, though, meaning you would have to make 120 payments on the new consolidated loan before receiving forgiveness. Those who took this step after the FFEL program ended in 2010 could be eligible for forgiveness as early as 2020.

Some used the wrong repayment plan

Only payments made under the standard repayment plan or an income-driven repayment plan qualify for PSLF. But there is hope if you were denied forgiveness for using an incorrect repayment plan, such as extended or graduated repayment.

These borrowers can request forgiveness under an alternate version of PSLF, known as Temporary Expanded Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

Somesimplydon'tqualify

PSLF's low approval rate can also be attributed to borrowers applying who shouldn't.

The Education Department offers a PSLF Help Tool outlining the program's qualifications. However, the best way to confirm your eligibility is to submit an Employment Certification Form. Providing an ECF is not required, though borrowers are encouraged to do so.

"Without the critical information provided on the ECF, the Department has no way of knowing which borrowers may potentially be interested in or eligible for PSLF," Hill said. "Submitting an ECF annually reduces the possibility of an unexpected outcome for borrowers."

Borrowers who skip the ECF may learn too late that they don't qualify for PSLF. If you find yourself in this situation, stick with income-driven repayment — which forgives any remaining loan balance after 20 or 25 years of payments — and look at other student loan forgiveness programs. Either may provide eventual relief from your debt. **RYAN LANE**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy the owner's storage lien, PS Orange Co. Inc. will sell at public lien sale on May 23rd, 2019, the personal property in the below-listed occupants' leased spaces, which may include but are not limited to: household and personal items, office and other equipment. The public sale of these items will begin at 10:00 AM and continue until all units are sold.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 23103, 1251 Byberry Road, Philadelphia, PA 19116, (215) 309-8020 • Time: 10:00 AM

C359 - Holland, David; D425 - Clough, Roland; D452 - Shields, Douglas; D469 - Rodgers, Dwayne; G706 - Stohr, Eric; G760 - Golembiewski, Ramona; H862 - Norley, Samantha; L1056 - Reid, Christine; M1124 - Berry, Kim; M1149 - Russell, Aaron; O1506 - BRANCH, TAMEKA

PUBLIC STORAGE # 24232, 2700 Grant Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19114, (215) 490-9431 • Time: 11:00 AM

B0069 - Harper, Tamika; C0146 - Kendrick, William; C0149 - HARGROVE-MOORE, DANA; C0173 - Karingbaye, Patince; D0206 - Beale, Dorothy; E0261 - Evans, Samantha; E0316 - Garrett, Joseph; F0338 - Burgmann, Gus; H0532 - Pietras, Lisa; J0631 - Butler, Derek; J0741 - Walton, Shawnia; J0767 - Grosswald, Michael; L0995 - Appiah-Biney, George; M1080 - Pinard, Pierre; N1129 - Gambone Jr, Michael; N1172 - King III, John

PUBLIC STORAGE # 21605, 3751 Bristol Pike, Bensalem, PA 19020, (215) 309-8353 • Time: 12:00 PM

B017 - Clements, Thomas; B046 - Daley, Matthew; B162 - Medeiros, Joseph; B226 - Drinhouser, Thomas; B233 - Ford, Michelle; B237 - Knowles, Katie; B249 - Wheeler, Crystal; B325 - GALENSKI, ANTHONY; B351 - Keiter, Melissa; B354 - Bish, Brian; C004 - Benson, Cassara; C023 - Crompton Jr, John; C057 - Truelove, Zonda; C066 - Howlen, Glenda; C156 - Scott, Christine; C184 - Holovich, Terri; C204 - Garcia, Jonathan; C237 - Slezak, Lynn

Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available prior to the sale. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be in cash or credit card-no checks. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By PS Orangeco, Inc., 701 Western Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201. (818) 244-8080.

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0328 Terry Corson, Bags, Chair, Clothes and Suitcases
2110 Michelle Brodie, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes, Toys and Appliances
2506 Nina McKissock, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes, Trunks, Suitcases Toys, Sporting Goods and Appliances
3220 Robin McKinnon, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes, Trunks, Suitcases and Sporting Goods
3309 Tony Harrison, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes, and Appliances
4001 Jonathon Cooper, Bags, Boxes, Clothes and Microwave • A4450 Keith Wilson, Bags
Purchases must be paid at the facility with Credit Card or Cash. All Purchases must be complete within 72 hours of the end of the online auction. A $100.00 cash cleaning deposit is required until all items in the unit are removed from the premises and verified by the manager on duty. Sale subject to cancellation until the purchase is completed; company reserves the right to refuse any online bids.
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0431 Michael Jackowski, Tools, 1601 Khalil Johnson, Furniture, Clothing
2136 Saran T Murray, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes, Suitcases
2306 Georgia Fuss, Household Goods
2327 Beatrice Jaipur, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes, Suitcases, Toys, Appliances
2711 Anthony Baylock, Household Goods, Furniture, Appliances
Purchases must be paid at the facility with Credit Card or Cash. All Purchases must be complete within 72 hours of the end of the online auction. A $100 cash cleaning deposit is required until all items in the unit are removed from the premises and verified by manager on duty. Sale subject to cancellation until the purchase is completed; company reserves the right to refuse any online bids.
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will be sold at auction.

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2131 Sabrina King, Household Goods, Furniture • 2216 Micah Wilson, Household Goods
2221 Lakiesha Dodson, Household Goods • 2300 Matthew Roane JR, Household Goods
2329 Aaron Owens, Household Goods • 2346 Eric Thompson, Household Goods
2348 Andreana Thornton, Household Goods • 3215 Shamane Simpson, Household Goods
3332 Benjamin Jones, Household Goods • 3347 Paris Williams, Household Goods
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1502 Kentaya Price • 2321 Michael O'Malley
2402 Luis Mercado • 2619 Veronica Dunn
Purchases must be paid at the facility with Cash. All Purchases must be complete within 72 hours of the end of the online auction. A $100 cash cleaning deposit is required until all items in the unit are removed from the premises and verified by manager on duty. Sale subject to cancellation until the purchase is completed; company reserves the right to refuse any online bids.
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4501 Joanne Barrila, Household Goods, Boxes
2312 Donna Byrd, Household Goods, Boxes • 2302 Donna Byrd, Household Goods
4204 Loraine Rivera, Household Goods
Purchases must be paid at the facility with Credit Card or Cash. All Purchases must be complete within 72 hours of the end of the online auction. A $100.00 cash cleaning deposit is required until all items in the unit are removed from the premises and verified by the manager on duty. Sale subject to cancellation until the purchase is completed; company reserves the right to refuse any online bids.
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2117 Joel Mendez, Household Goods, Boxes
2605 Edgar Casrto, Household Goods, Boxes Appliances, Tools
2705 Alexis Figueroa, Household Goods, Furniture, Boxes
3316 Shirley Smith, Furniture, Boxes • 3704 Rodney Cureton, Boxes
Purchases must be paid at the facility with Credit Card or Cash. All Purchases must be complete within 72 hours of the end of the online auction. A $100.00 cash cleaning deposit is required until all items in the unit are removed from the premises and verified by the manager on duty. Sale subject to cancellation until the purchase is completed; company reserves the right to refuse any online bids.
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0229 DebraLynn Jackson, Bags, Electronics, Furniture, Boxes, Appliances • 0309 Marquis Wilson, Furniture
0424 Nathan Wilson, Household Goods, Boxes, Suitcases, Toys, Furniture
1203 Tomika Rivera, Furniture, Boxes, Household Goods, Sporting Goods, Appliances, Tools
2223 Kenneth Pitt, Household Goods, Boxes, Furniture, Trunks, Suitcases
Purchases must be paid at the facility with Credit Card or Cash. All Purchases must be complete within 72 hours of the end of the online action. A $100.00 cash cleaning deposit is required until all items in the unit are removed from the premises and verified by the manager on duty. Sale subject to cancellation until the purchase is completed; company reserves the right to refuse any online bids.
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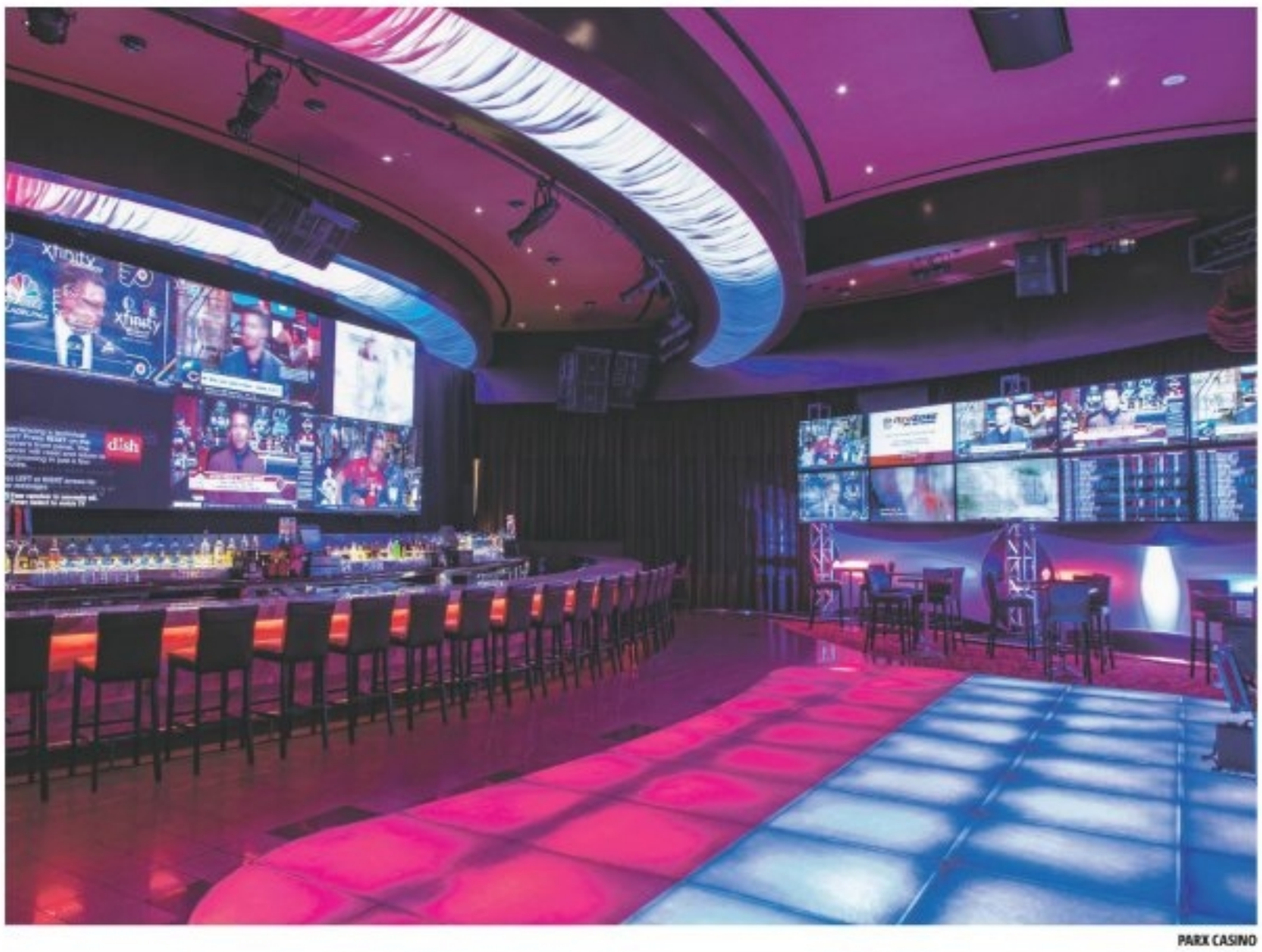
Breaking down the official Pennsylvania sportsbook figures.

MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.



PARX CASINO

The game-changer of online sports betting is nearly here in Pennsylvania, but the brick-and-mortar sports betting shops are still enjoying modest success.

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board last week released its handle and revenue numbers for the month of April. The state turned in its second-most profitable month since sports bets began being placed legally. Here is the breakdown, month-by-month, since the start of the year.

January: $32 million handle, $2.6 million revenue

February: $31.5 million handle, $1.94 million revenue

March: $44.52 million handle, $5.51 million revenue

April: $36.7 million handle, $4.2 million revenue

The numbers dipped from March to April, but that is consistent with numbers from Nevada and New Jersey as March tends to be a booming month with the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

Here is a breakdown by Pennsylvania casinos, with Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh once again leading the way. Rivers is the only game in town out west and has reaped the benefits in the infancy of legal Pennsylvania sports betting.

Rivers Casino: $8.1 million handle, $871,753 revenue

SugarHouse Casino: $7.9 million handle, $781,163 revenue

Parx Casino: $6.85 million handle, $907,298 revenue

Hollywood Casino at Penn National: $3.9 million handle, $361,249 revenue

Valley Forge Casino Resort: $3.05 million handle, $379,731 revenue

Harrah's Philadelphia: $2.71 million handle, $282,740 revenue

South Philadelphia Race and Sportsbook: $2.6 million handle, $441,692 revenue

Valley Forge Race and Sportsbook: $1.5 million handle, $195,856 revenue

Interesting here is that Parx Casino was the clubhouse leader in revenue for the month of April, despite not having the largest handle (amount of money bet).

TWEET OF THE DAY

Matt Jones
@KySportsRadio

Between the disputed Derby and the Riderless horse in the Preakness, horse racing has rarely been this absurd/awesome.

Best bets

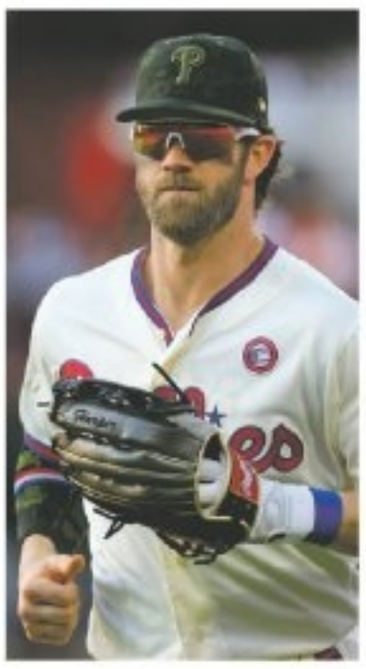
MLB, NBA betting previews

Phillies at Cubs

The Phillies will try to get started on the right foot in the first of a four-game series at Wrigley Field against the Cubs on Monday.

The Phillies' listed starter in this one is Jake Arrieta (4-4, 4.02 ERA), who has pitched to a 5.29 ERA in May (three starts). Arrieta, a former Cub, has little in-game experience against this lineup, save for bench player Daniel Descalso (0-for-10) and slumping outfielder Jason Heyward (6-for-18). However, he faces a Chicago offense that ranks third in the NL in runs scored this month at 83. Cubs catcher Willson Contreras is swinging a hot bat in May (1.051 OPS), as is shortstop Javier Baez (.994 OPS). Third baseman Kris Bryant has had five multi-hit games this month and has launched eight home runs while tallying 18 RBI. Yu Darvish (2-3, 5.14 ERA) hasn't been much better than Arrieta in May, pitching to a 5.40 ERA (three starts). Through nine starts this year, Darvish has walked three or more batters seven times. He mitigates that by recording his fair share of strikeouts, but the Phillies are a smart team in the batter's box. They're fourth in the NL in walks drawn this month and have struck out the fourth-fewest times. The Over is a confident play here.

The play: Phillies vs. Cubs Over



Warriors at Trail Blazers

A triple-double from an unexpected source in forward Draymond Green (20 points, 13 rebounds, and 12 assists) helped catapult the Golden State Warriors past the Portland Trail Blazers in Game 3. Golden State has forged a 3-0 lead without Kevin Durant, and with Portland point guard Damian Lillard possibly dealing with a rib injury, the Warriors are in good position to sweep.

The Warriors' defense has been exceptional this series, limiting Lillard to 32.9 percent shooting and C.J. McCollum to 37 percent.

The play: Warriors -3

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Koepka survives to win PGA Championship and fourth major

Golf's new No. 1 held on to win by two strokes ahead of Dustin Johnson.

REUTERS

A coronation almost turned into a calamity but Brooks Koepka survived to win the PGA Championship for a second consecutive year on Sunday and establish himself as golf's new big dog.

He triumphed at Bethpage Black to secure his fourth major title in less than two years and take over the world number one ranking.

It was not pretty but Koepka limped across the finish line two strokes ahead of fellow American Dustin Johnson in a championship that suddenly came to life in strong and gusty winds that provided a stern examination of skill and patience.

A closing four-over 74 sealed the deal as he became the first champion to lead wire-to-wire since Hal Sutton in 1983.

"I'm just glad we didn't have to play any more holes," Koepka said at the victory presentation as he received the Wanamaker Trophy.

"That wind was up [and] D.J. played awesome. He put the pressure on but I'm glad to have this thing back in my hands."

What looked like being a comfortable march to victory turned into high drama as Koepka made four consecutive bogeys from the 11th hole as Bethpage bared its teeth in the conditions.

A seven-shot lead when he started the day dissolved to a one-shot advantage, with Johnson, playing two groups ahead, making birdie at the 15th hole.

With the raucous gallery cheering for Johnson, it would have been easy for the leader to crumble completely.

But Johnson could not avoid trouble either. He bogeyed the 16th and 17th holes, affording Koepka luxurious breathing space.

Asked if he was aware how tenuous his lead had become, Koepka said: "How could you not with the D.J. chants?

"He put unbelievable pressure on me. I'm still in shock right now. This is awesome.

"I put it in the rough almost every hole today but to grind it out ... this is the most satisfying of all four (major wins)."

Koepka finished at eight-under 272, while Johnson (69) had to settle for second place on six-under, the 2016 U.S. Open remaining his only major title.

Four strokes further back, Americans Jordan Spieth and Patrick Cantlay and Englishman Matt Wallace shared third place.

No player has claimed their first four majors as quickly as Koepka, who won back-to-back U.S. Open titles in 2017-18.

He also became the first repeat PGA Championship winner since Tiger Woods in 2007. REUTERS

Chris Long retires after 11 NFL seasons

After 11 NFL seasons, including two with the Eagles, Chris Long retired over the weekend. GETTY IMAGES

It was assumed that Chris Long's time with the Philadelphia Eagles was up following the 2018 season, but the veteran defensive end is calling it a career.

The 34-year-old announced via his Twitter that he is retiring from the NFL after 11 seasons.

"Cheers," Long wrote while posting a photo of himself holding up a plastic, red cup. "Been a hell of a journey. Eleven years and I can honestly say I put my soul into every minute of it. Highs and lows. I've seen them both and I appreciate the perspective. Gratitude and love to those who lifted me up."

Of Long's 11 seasons in the NFL, he spent only two with the Eagles but left an indelible mark on the franchise and the city.

After winning a Super Bowl title with the New England Patriots in 2017, Long played a key role in delivering the Eagles their first-ever Lombardi Trophy in February of 2018 over those very same Patriots.

He wasn't nearly as imposing as the player he was toward the start of his career, when drafted second overall by the then-St. Louis Rams. However, he did put up some of the more productive seasons in Philadelphia during the twilight of his career.

During his two seasons with the Eagles, Long recorded a combined 11.5 sacks, 3.5 more than the previous three years combined.

His off-field commitments have been even more commendable as he's developed into a philanthropist and an activist.

He donated his entire $1 million salary in 2017 to charities promoting educational equality and is one of the strongest voices heard when it comes to the conversation of racial equality in the United States.

His "Waterboys" foundation has also brought clean drinking water to impoverished areas in East Africa.

It led to Long winning the NFL's Walter Payton Man of the Year Award in February, celebrating a player's volunteer and charity work.

Long retires with 333 combined tackles and 70 sacks, which ranks 92nd in NFL history.

JOE PANTORNO

Bryce Harper is playing under great expectations after signing a monster deal with the Phillies. GETTY IMAGES

Harper struggles a concern?

The Phillies superstar has yet to find his groove in the City of Brotherly Love.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Things have almost gone according to plan for the Philadelphia Phillies throughout the early portion of the 2019 season.

After spending "stupid money" in free agency over the winter, they sit atop the National League East, which is expected to be one of the most hotly contested divisions in Major League Baseball.

Yet some concerns are lingering at the back of Philadelphians' minds amidst the promising start to the year.

While pitching depth in both the starting rotation and bullpen remains a priority, the performance of Bryce Harper in his first year as a Phillie will continue to fall under the microscope.

That's what will generally happen, though, when you sign one of the richest contracts in MLB history.

The $330 million man has been off to a slow start in Philadelphia. Entering Sunday's series finale against the Colorado Rockies, Harper was batting a meager .230 with eight home runs, tied for 61st in the majors and 28 RBI, which was tied for 36th.

While he ranked first with 34 walks, he also led the leagues in strikeouts with 61.

Not exactly the kind of production throughout the first eight weeks of the season that Phillies fans were hoping for.

But is this the kind of player the organization should be expecting for the next 12 years?

Harper's batting average has always been an inconsistent aspect of his game. With a career .277 mark, it's risen to as high as .330 in his 2015 MVP campaign and as low as .243 the following year.

The previous two seasons were just as inconsistent when he followed up a .319 2017 with a .249 showing in 2018. Early indications this year suggest that he will be flirting with that .240 to .250 range once again.

What is somewhat more alarming is his strikeout record. After averaging 111 punchouts over his first six MLB seasons, Harper set a career-high with 169 in 2018. This season, he's on pace for a whopping 219 strikeouts.

Regardless of his struggles, he is trending near his career averages when it comes to his on-base percentage and slugging percentage. He was 16 points off his career OBP entering Sunday, but 50 off his slugging as he was slashing .371/.460.

Those numbers are more than commendable when focusing on just his batting average, but once again, they will always be picked apart when $330 million is in the equation.

At the moment, though, Harper is resembling a feast-or-famine-like power hitter that will be difficult to rely on consistently.

As long as the Phillies keep winning, it won't be as large an issue, especially when Harper is getting plenty of support from the likes of Rhys Hoskins.

But if struggles lie ahead this summer, the pressure is only going to build on the 26-year-old.

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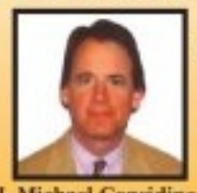

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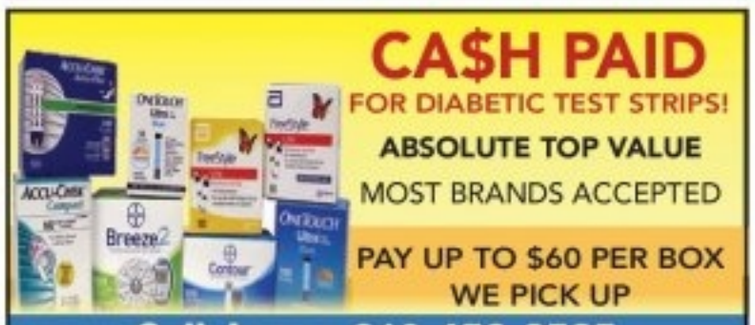

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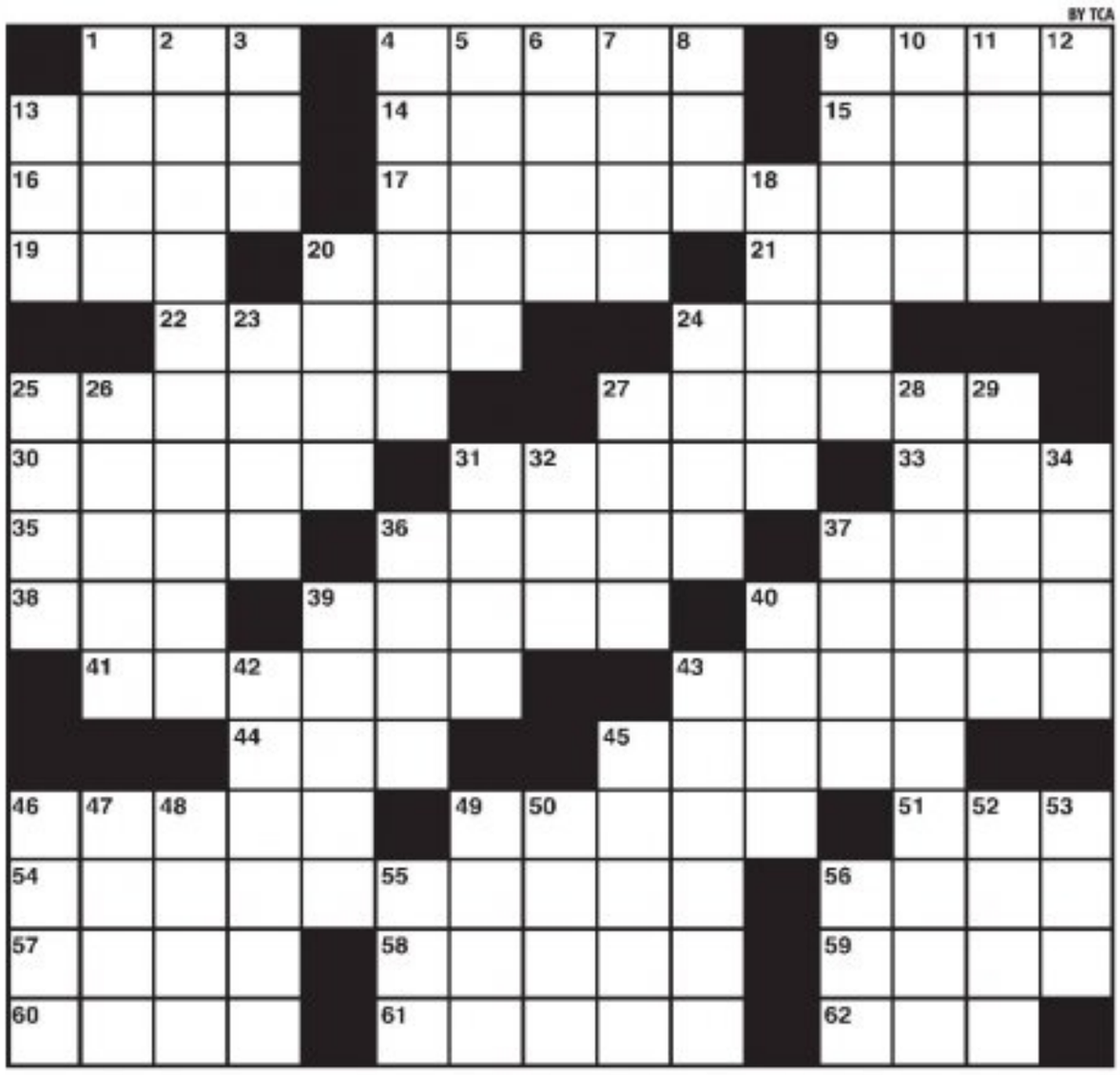

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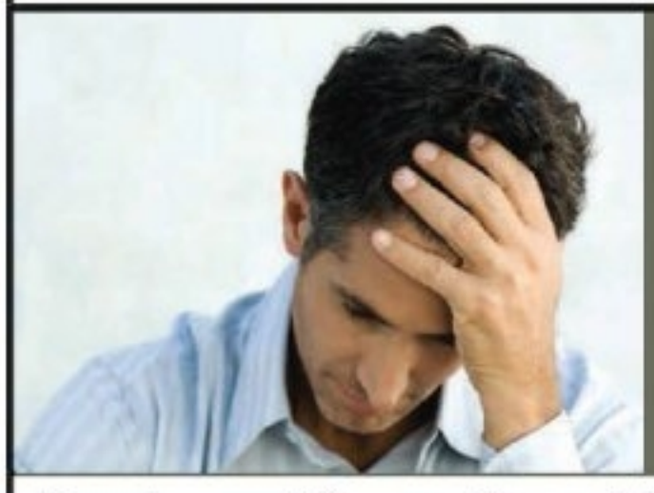

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